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Callers swamp Senate offices in Trump's first weeks, only to get busy signals and full voicemail

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Callers are getting busy signals and voicemail inboxes are full at many U.S. Senate offices as people try to reach out and voice their opinions on President Donald Trump's Cabinet picks, executive orders and moves to dismantle various federal programs.

A memo distributed to Senate staff on Tuesday said there was a higher number of calls than usual and that some callers were having trouble getting through.

"The Senate is experiencing an unusually high volume of inbound calls. External callers may receive a temporary busy signal when phoning a Senate office," according to the memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The influx of phone calls comes as Trump and ally Elon Musk are working to shrink the federal government during the president's first weeks in office. They are shuttering agencies, temporarily freezing funding and pushing workers to resign, all while staffers with Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency infiltrate departments in a stated effort to root out fraud and abuse.



The U.S. Capitol is seen, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

One popular post making the rounds on social media urged opponents of those actions to call their lawmakers six times a day, every day — two calls each to their two senators and two to their House member. "You should NOT be bothering with online petitions or emailing," it said. The post urged use of a smartphone app that would make the task of making multiple calls per day easier.

Caitlin Christman, an institutional support contractor in Wisconsin furloughed last

week from the U.S. Agency for International Development, said it took her four attempts over five days to successfully leave a message for her senator, Republican Ron Johnson, after dealing with an overloaded voicemail box, grainy recorded greetings and a busy signal. "I wanted to express my concern with dismantling USAID without any sort of review, and to relay my experience with its work, which I believe has been in our country's best interest," she said, not-

ing that she expects to be fired later this week.

Meryl Neiman of Ohio Progressive Action Leaders and others within her network sought to draw attention to the fact that they were having trouble reaching both her state's senators — Republicans Bernie Moreno and Jon Husted — by phone or in person at their field offices before Wednesday's nationwide protests against Trump and Project 2025, a hard-right playbook for American government and society.

Both senators are close with Trump's vice president, JD Vance, and were with him as recently as Monday, during a tour of the 2023 derailment site in East Palestine.

Those frustrated by Trump's actions shared similar stories with the AP of being unable to reach their lawmakers. They seemed to be experiencing particular barriers to connecting with the Senate offices of Trump's fellow Republicans, who may be more inundated than Democrats because Republicans hold the chamber's majority and are more likely to have the president's ear.

Lawmakers were frustrated, too, as they seek to maintain operations amid the barrage. Senate voicemail boxes only hold about 1,000 messages before becoming full and needing to be catalogued and emptied.

Moreno's spokesperson, Reagan McCarthy, said helping Ohioans in need is his top priority.

"While the Senate has been dealing with an exceptionally high volume of calls, our office is committed to responding to each and every Ohioan in need of assistance and working through all requests as quickly as possible," she said in a statement. □



Pam Bondi is sworn in as Attorney General by Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, right, as partner John Wakefield and mother Patsy Bondi, look on, in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pam Bondi was sworn in Wednesday as attorney general, taking charge of the Justice Department as it braces for upheaval with President Donald Trump aiming to exert his

will over an agency that has long provoked his ire.

The ceremony took place in the Oval Office and it was the first time that the Republican president had participated in a second-term swearing-in of a Cabinet member. It was further evidence of Trump's intense personal interest in

Pam Bondi is sworn in as attorney general as the Justice Department braces for major shakeup

the operations of the department that investigated him during his first term and then brought two since-abandoned indictments after he left office in 2021.

Before Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas administered the oath of office, Trump praised Bondi's record as a prosecutor and said she will "end the weaponization of federal law enforcement." Bondi, who was Florida's first female attorney general before becoming a lobbyist, told the president that she would not let him down.

"I will make you proud and I will make this country proud," she said. "I will restore integrity to the Justice Department and I will fight violent crime throughout this country and

throughout this world, and make America safe again," Bondi said.

The Senate confirmed Bondi in a 54-46 vote Tuesday that was almost entirely along party lines. The lone Democrat to join Republicans was Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman.

Republicans have highlighted Bondi's record in Florida in taking on human traffickers and opioids. GOP lawmakers she will bring much-needed change to a department they believe unfairly pursued Trump through investigations and mistreated his supporters who were prosecuted in connection with the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021.

As attorney general Bondi will oversee the FBI, which

is in turmoil over the scrutiny of agents involved in Trump-related investigations. FBI agents sued the Tuesday after an extraordinary request from the Justice Department for the names of agents who participated in the investigation into the Jan. 6 riot that led to more than 1,500 criminal cases. Many within the FBI had seen that request as a precursor for mass firings. Acting Deputy Director Emil Bove later said in a memo to the workforce that FBI agents "who simply followed orders and carried out their duties in an ethical manner" are not at risk of being fired. The only employees who should be concerned, Bove wrote, "are those who ached with corrupt or partisan intent." □

FBI agents who 'simply followed orders' in Jan. 6 probes won't be fired, a Justice official says

By ERIC TUCKER and ALAN-NA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI agents "who simply followed orders and carried out their duties in an ethical manner" while investigating the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol are not at risk of being fired, a top Justice Department official said Wednesday in a memo to the bureau workforce obtained by The Associated Press.

But the memo from acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove also provides no reassurances for any agents found to have "acted with corrupt or partisan intent" and suggests those employees, if there any, have reason to be concerned about a highly unusual review process the Trump administration Justice Department is embarking upon to identify what it says is potential misconduct.

The message from Bove, which also accuses acting FBI Director Brian Driscoll of "insubordination," is aimed at providing a measure of clarity following days of turmoil and uncertainty inside the bureau as a result



Emil Bove, attorney for former US President Donald Trump, sits Manhattan criminal court during Trump's sentencing in the hush money case in New York, Jan. 10, 2025.

of an extraordinary Justice Department demand on Friday for the names of agents who participated in the investigations so that officials could determine whether additional personnel action was merited.

Many within the FBI had seen that request as a precursor for mass firings particularly in light of separate moves to fire members of

special counsel Jack Smith's team that investigated Donald Trump, reassign senior career Justice Department officials and force out prosecutors on Jan. 6 cases and multiple top FBI executives. Trump and his Republican allies have long accused the Biden administration Justice Department of being "weaponized" against conservatives. They have

focused particular ire on prosecutions arising from the Capitol attack on Jan. 6, 2021, when a mob of Trump supporters stormed the building in a failed effort to halt the certification of the 2020 election after the Republican then-president lost to Democrat Joe Biden. On the first day of Trump's second term, he granted sweeping clemency

through pardons and sentence commutations to more than 1,500 of the rioters who were charged.

Adding to the angst was that thousands of FBI employees who participated in investigations related to Jan. 6 were asked over the weekend to complete in-depth questionnaires about their involvement in the inquiries as the new Trump administration Justice Department weighs disciplinary actions.

FBI employees filed two lawsuits Tuesday to halt the collection and potential dissemination of names of investigators.

Bove, in his memo on Wednesday, accused Driscoll, the FBI's acting chief, of "insubordination" for resisting his request "to identify the core team" responsible for Jan. 6 investigations.

After Driscoll refused to comply, Bove wrote, he broadened the request for information about all FBI employees who participated in the investigations.

Driscoll had no response to the insubordination allegation, the FBI said. □

Pro-Trump Arab American group changes its name after the president's Gaza 'Riviera' comments

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A group that played a key role in Donald Trump's voter outreach to the Arab American community alongside his allies is rebranding itself after the president said that the U.S. would "take over" the Gaza Strip.

Bishara Bahbah, chairman of the group formerly known as Arab Americans for Trump, said during a phone interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday that the group would now be called Arab Americans for Peace.

The name change came after Trump held a Tuesday press conference alongside Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House and proposed the U.S. take "ownership" in redeveloping the area into "the Riviera of the Middle East." "The talk

about what the president wants to do with Gaza, obviously we're completely opposed to the idea of the transfer of Palestinians from anywhere in Historic Pales-

tine," Bahbah said. "And so we did not want to be behind the curve in terms of pushing for peace, because that has been our objective from the very beginning." Arab Americans for Trump helped lead voter outreach efforts for Trump ahead of the 2024 presidential election in swing states such as Michigan and Arizona.

The group, independent from the Trump campaign, frequently facilitated meetings between Arab American community leaders and Trump's allies, including Richard Grenell, now serving as Trump's envoy for special missions, and Massad Boulos, the father-in-law of Trump's daughter Tiffany and now

a senior adviser on Arab and Middle Eastern affairs. In the 2024 election, Trump became the first Republican presidential candidate to win Dearborn, Michigan home to the nation's largest concentration of Arab Americans since 2000 on his way to winning the state. Trump visited Dearborn on Nov. 1. Bahbah said the group had been thinking about changing its name for "a while" and ultimately made the decision Tuesday. But Bahbah had said during a phone interview just prior to Trump's Tuesday night press conference with Netanyahu that the group's name was Arab Americans for Trump. □



Bishara Bahbah, national chairman for Arab Americans for Trump, answers questions during an interview, Aug. 14, 2024, in Dearborn, Mich.

Associated Press

The transgender care fight targets more adults as Georgia and other states weigh laws

By JEFF AMY

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Conservatives' nationwide offensive against transgender care, earlier focused on young people, is increasingly trying to cut off access for transgender adults.

With 2025 state legislative sessions still young, bills have been introduced to cut off public funding for gender affirming care for adults in at least 10 states. Georgia became the first state to move forward this year, with a panel voting 6-3 Tuesday to advance a bill to the full Senate despite pleas from public employees who would lose insurance benefits.

"It is a slap in the face to reward that service by stripping us of the health care access that we desperately need," said Carrie Scott, a lawyer for the state and transgender woman.

The panel voted hours after a Georgia county asked an appeals court to overturn an order to pay for gender affirming care for a sheriff's deputy.

Other states have already tried to restrict care for transgender adults. Wis-



Georgia state employee Carrie Scott speaks against of a bill that would cut off public funding of transgender care by Georgia state government on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 at the Georgia Capitol in Atlanta.

consin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, vetoed a bill last year that would have banned Medicaid spending on some gender affirming care. Former Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, tried to impose restrictions on adult care before his executive order was rolled back. And a 2023 Florida law requires physicians to oversee health

care related to transitioning, mandating in-person appointments.

This year, bills have been introduced not only in Georgia, but Arizona, Connecticut, Kentucky, Montana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia.

LGBTQ+ advocates say Republican legislators are emboldened by President Donald Trump's executive

orders targeting transgender and nonbinary people. Former President Joe Biden, by contrast, supported transgender rights.

Carl Charles, an attorney for gay rights group Lambda Legal, said Trump's actions are "marching orders" to Republican legislators.

"Certainly the states are feeling emboldened by the maelstrom of Trump's anti-

trans orders from the White House," Charles said.

The Georgia bill would ban spending state money on gender affirming care through state employee health plans, Medicaid and prisons.

"What this bill says is we are not going to spend state taxpayer dollars on transgender surgeries in our state," Republican Sen. Blake Tillery of Vidalia, the sponsor, told the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. Earlier Tuesday in a nearby courtroom, Houston County Sheriff's Sgt. Anna Lange watched as lawyers clashed before the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals over whether her county's insurance plan must keep paying gender affirming care benefits she won through a federal suit.

"Trans people are people, and we deserve to be treated just like everybody else," Lange said afterward.

Like Lange, Georgia state employees sued for benefits, with advocates winning settlements covering public university employees, Medicaid beneficiaries and state employees. □

Associated Press

Black church in DC that was vandalized by the Proud Boys gains control over the group's trademark

WASHINGTON (AP) — A judge has awarded a historic Black church in Washington control over the Proud Boys trademark after the far-right group default-

ed on a \$2.8 million judgment.

The Monday ruling in D.C. Superior Court grants rights to the trademark of the group's name to the Met-

ropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church and bars the Proud Boys members from selling any merchandise with its name or symbols without the church's consent. The ruling also allows the church to try to seize any money made from selling the group's merchandise.

The church filed the lawsuit to try to recoup damages from vandalism made by group members after a December 2020 pro-Donald Trump rally. Black Lives Matter banners were torn down and burned at two churches, including Metropolitan African Methodist. There were also violent clashes between opposing protesters and arrests were made that night.

Enrique Tarrio, then the leader of the Proud Boys, confessed to participating in the burnings and was later sentenced to more than five months in jail on those and other charges. Tarrio was later sentenced to 22 years in federal prison for orchestrating the Jan. 6, 2021, riot.

On his first day in office, President Donald Trump granted pardons, commutations or vowed to dismiss cases against the 1,500-plus people charged with crimes in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol including Tarrio.

In a lengthy statement posted to X, Tarrio wrote, "The presiding judge has denied due process to myself and the other defendants, pre-

venting us from presenting a proper defense." Tarrio also suggested in separate posts that the Proud Boys rename themselves, "African Methodist Episcopal Boys" and asked for suggestions on a new name.

Case records show the lawsuit was served to Tarrio at the federal prison where he was housed when it was filed, as well as to at least one other address associated with him and another member.

The church lawsuit called the actions on Dec. 12, 2020 "acts of terror" and said they were meant to intimidate the members of the church.

A default judgement was awarded to the church in June 2023. □



A Washington police vehicle sits outside the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, June 19, 2015.

Associated Press

South African president phones influential billionaire Musk after Trump's funding threat

By GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — South African President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke with Donald Trump's "influential" billionaire adviser Elon Musk a day after the new U.S. president promised to cut funding for South Africa over a land expropriation law, Ramaphosa's spokesperson said Wednesday.

Ramaphosa's conversation with Musk was "logical," spokesperson Vincent Magwenya said, because the South African-born Tesla and SpaceX entrepreneur has held previous investment-related discussions with Ramaphosa and is a Trump ally.

The land law, which was signed by Ramaphosa last month, is contentious because it gives the government scope to expropriate land from private parties. Trump announced Sunday that he would stop financial assistance while the U.S. investigated why South Africa was "confiscating land" from some people, without saying who. He told reporters wrongly that the South African government was taking away land and "actually they're doing things that are perhaps far worse



Elon Musk arrives before the 60th Presidential Inauguration in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025.

Associated Press

than that." Trump again didn't provide details. The South African government said Trump's announcement and related criticism of the country by Musk was full of "misinformation and distortions" and the call to Musk was to set the record straight. Musk, who is leading the Trump administration's new Department of Government Efficiency, has long criticized the government in his homeland, a key U.S.

trading partner in Africa, as being anti-white and has cast the law in question as a deliberate act to take land away from its white minority. He faces scrutiny in the U.S. for his control over parts of the federal government, but the South Africa issue also shows his influence on U.S. foreign policy. Should Trump follow through on his promise to cut South Africa's funding, it would stop nearly half a

billion dollars a year in assistance, the vast majority of it for the world's biggest HIV/AIDS program. South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV in the world at more than 8 million, with around 5.5 million on anti-retroviral medication. The U.S. funds around 17% of South Africa's HIV program through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEP-FAR, and gave the country

\$440 million in assistance last year.

The South African government said no land has been confiscated, and even groups in South Africa that have been critical of the new law said Trump was wrong in claiming any land had been taken away.

"We will respond expeditiously to disinformation and mischaracterization of our laws as well as the general state of the country," Magwenya, Ramaphosa's spokesperson, told reporters Wednesday. "We were obviously perturbed by the substance of the announcement (by Trump) because there were clearly inaccuracies."

Magwenya said South Africa hoped to have more engagements with the Trump administration at various levels, including with "influential figures like Elon Musk."

The new law targets land that is unused or not being utilized in the public interest, and property rights are protected, according to the government. No land has been taken under the law, which was only signed by Ramaphosa two weeks ago and is a result of years of consultations and Parliamentary debates. □

Colombia's president orders national oil company to cancel US venture over environmental concerns

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Tuesday ordered the state-run oil company Ecopetrol to cancel a joint venture with a U.S.-owned company that was expected to produce around 90,000 barrels of oil per day, citing environmental concerns. In a nationally televised speech, Petro said he opposed the recent extension of a deal between Ecopetrol and Occidental Petroleum, or Oxy, because it involved extracting oil through fracking, a controversial technique used to extract oil and

gas from shale rock that has been criticized by environmental groups. "I want that operation to

be sold, and for the money to be invested in clean energies," Petro said in a meeting with his Cabinet



Colombia President's Gustavo Petro addresses the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters, Sept. 24, 2024.

Associated Press

that was livestreamed on social media. "We are against fracking, because fracking is the death of nature, and the death of humanity."

Ecopetrol had announced on Monday it would renew its operations with Oxy in the Permian basin, an oil producing region that spans Texas and New Mexico, to develop 91 oil wells, investing over \$880 million.

Ecopetrol said its projects in the Permian basin produced an average of 95,200 barrels of oil per day in the first nine months of last year. Operations in the Permian basin made up around 12% of Ecopetrol's total production last year. Ecopetrol, controlled by the Colombian government but also listed on the New York Stock Exchange, saw its shares rise 2% on Tuesday following the announcement of its deal with Occidental. However, they fell slightly after Petro called for the agreement's cancellation. Colombia has refused to approve fracking projects on its territory, though it had not previously blocked Ecopetrol from taking part in fracking ventures overseas. Environmentalists argue that fracking can pollute water sources and cause tremors. □

More than 100 Indian migrants deported by the U.S. arrive home

By PRABHJOT GILL

Associated Press

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — A U.S. military plane carrying 104 deported Indian migrants arrived in a northern Indian city on Wednesday, the first such flight to the country as part of a crackdown ordered by the Trump administration, airport officials said.

The Indians who returned home had illegally entered the United States over the years and came from various Indian states.

The move came ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, which is expected next week. U.S. President Donald Trump and Modi discussed immigration in a phone call last week and Trump stressed the importance of India buying more American-made security equipment and fair bilateral trade.

India has cooperated with the U.S. and said it is ready to accept the deported Indians after verification.

New Delhi says it is against illegal immigration, mainly because it is linked to several forms of organized crime, and it has not ob-



A U.S. military plane which carried deported Indian immigrants is parked at the international airport in Amritsar, India, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025.

Associated Press

jected to the U.S. deporting its citizens.

"For Indians, not just in the United States but anywhere in the world, if they are Indian nationals, and they are overstaying or they are in a particular country without proper documentation, we will take them back, provided documents are shared with us so that we can verify their nationality that they are indeed Indi-

ans," India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said last month.

"If that happens to be the case, then we will take things forward. We will facilitate the return to India," Jaiswal said. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said earlier this week the deportation flights were an effective way to stem the flow of illegal migration, which he said is destructive and de-

stabilizing.

The State Department said such deportations send a message of deterrence to other people considering migrating illegally.

India's junior External Affairs Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh told India's Parliament that 519 Indian nationals were deported to India between November 2023 and October 2024, citing U.S. government data.

The U.S. government carries out deportations through commercial and chartered flights, he added.

The use of the U.S. military to return people to their home country is a relatively new phenomenon that has started under the Trump administration.

A Pew Research Center report said that as of 2022, India ranked third, after Mexico and El Salvador, on the list of country with the largest number of unauthorized immigrants 725,000 living in the U.S.

Recent years have also seen a jump in the number of Indians attempting to enter the country along the U.S.-Canada border. The U.S. Border Patrol arrested more than 14,000 Indians on the Canadian border in the year ending Sept. 30, which amounted to 60% of all arrests along that border and more than 10 times the number two years ago.

Media reports indicate that the Indians living in the U.S. without documents are mainly from Punjab and Gujarat states, and that Indians comprised about 3% of all illegal border crossings in the U.S. in 2024. □

Rahim Al-Hussaini is named the new Aga Khan, spiritual leader of Ismaili Muslims

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Rahim Al-Hussaini was named Wednesday as the new Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the world's millions of Ismaili Muslims, following the death of his father.

The 53-year-old was designated as the Aga Khan V, the 50th hereditary imam of the Ismaili Muslims, in his father's will. His father died Tuesday in Portugal.

The Aga Khan is considered by his followers to be a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad and is treated as a head of state. The Aga Khan Development Network and the Ismaili religious community announced earlier that His Highness Prince Karim Al-Hussaini, the Aga Khan IV and 49th hereditary imam of the Shiite Ismaili Muslims, died surrounded by his



Karim Aga Khan, his wife the Begum Salima, and their son, Prince Rahim are seen in Geneva, Feb. 9, 1972. The baby was born October 12, 1971, in Geneva.

Associated Press

family.

Prince Rahim is the eldest son of the former Aga Khan. He was educated in the U.S., having studied comparative literature at

Brown University, and has served on the boards of various agencies within the Aga Khan Development Network, the spiritual leader's main philanthropic organization, according to a statement it released Wednesday.

The organization deals mainly with issues of health care, housing, education and rural economic development. It says it works in over 30 countries and has an annual budget of about \$1 billion for nonprofit development activities.

The Aga Khan Development Network said Prince Rahim took a special interest in its work to fight climate change and protect the environment.

The late Aga Khan was given the title of "His Highness" by Queen Elizabeth in July

1957, two weeks after his grandfather, the Aga Khan III, unexpectedly made him heir to the family's 1,300-year dynasty as leader of the Ismaili Muslim sect.

Over decades, the late Aga Khan evolved into a business magnate and a philanthropist, moving between the spiritual and the worldly with ease.

A defender of Islamic culture and values, he was widely regarded as a builder of bridges between Muslim societies and the West despite or perhaps because of his reticence about becoming involved in politics.

A network of hospitals bearing the Aga Khan's name is scattered in places where health care was lacking for the poorest, including Bangladesh, Tajikistan and Af-

ghanistan, where he spent tens of millions of dollars in developing local economies.

Ismailis lived for many generations in Iran, Syria and South Asia before also settling in east Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East, as well as Europe, North America and Australia more recently. They consider it a duty to tithe up to 12.5% of their income to the Aga Khan as steward.

Shenila Khoja-Moolji, an associate professor at Georgetown University who researches Muslim societies, said Ismailis turn to the Aga Khan in matters of faith and daily life and often refer to him "as a paternal figure."

Prince Rahim has three siblings, two brothers and one sister. □

Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on



the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and

paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!*

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sun-

set. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple

hue.

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell... ☐

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center— it is free for all! ☐



BELGIAN BISTRO

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Experience the modern twist of tradition at L'Avenue Belgian Bistro Aruba!



(Oranjestad)—Nuzzled up in a cozy nook of The Cove Mall in the sun-kissed paradise of Palm Beach, L'Avenue takes you on a journey to experience the true flavors of Belgium. Offering a selection of traditional Belgian and French cuisine, this bistro brings the old into the new against a backdrop of laid-back luxury.

The new kid on the block, L'Avenue currently holds a unique position in the island's culinary scene; being the only Belgian-owned,

Belgian restaurant on the island. This winning hand is not obtained by many, and L'Avenue's delicious menu and wide selection of Belgian beer, and European and New World wine emphasizes the bistro's unique vision to bring Europe into the palm of your hands!

Once part of the famous Taste of Belgium restaurant, L'Avenue offers a new point of view and brings a fresh life to what was once beloved by both locals and tourists. Crafted by Chef Juan Ludeña and his team, enjoy a superb variety of classic Belgian and French dishes served with a touch of innovation for lunch and dinner, including stews, steak-house quality meat and their famous Moules-frites, served with a variety of delicious and rich broth.

As if that wasn't enough, enjoy your meal under warm,



starry lights accompanied by live music performances every day, seated either in a relaxing and cool interior area of the restaurant, or outside against a backdrop of the bright, colorful lights of the Palm Beach strip!

More information

L'Avenue is situated at The

Cove Mall in Palm Beach and is open every day from 11am to 10pm for lunch and dinner. To book a reservation or ask for more information, please contact their phone line at +297 6996400, send an e-mail info@lavenuearuba.com, or visit their website at lavenuearuba.com □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years con-

secutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Caren Mazzullo from Oneida, New York, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Tamarijn bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation desti-

nation, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people
- Aruba's beaches
- The Resort where they are staying at
- The excursions that are to offer
- Aruba's warmth

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Celebrating Forty Years – Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all Qualified Club Members

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Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
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Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Visit the KINANIK Art Exhibition by local artist Steve Francees

Steve is a local artist and this will be his 14th exhibition, which will take place at the National Library (Bibliotheca Nacional Aruba) at Georgemadurostraat #13 in Oranjestad.

This exhibition will cover how the first inhabitants lived here in Aruba and also how they communicated between the islands and the main land (South America). The 1600s was when Aruba was under the ruler of Spain, and then the Dutch in the 1700s till 1950. This exhibition will show a timeline of the natives inhabitation on Aruba, and from an artist's point of view. Lots of pre historic paintings and sculptures will be included, where all attendees will learn about our history done by our local artist.

Steve Francees start doing paintings and sculptures at a very young age and when his family moved to Spain, his father took him to Escorial Museum in Madrid where his passion for art grew still to this day. The exhibition will be open from February 7th to the 21st and entrance is free. If you are in Aruba this week you can also attend the opening today, February 6th at 6pm at the National Library in Oranjestad.

Opening hours from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. This will be an amazing opportunity to learn more about our island and also have a talk with one of Aruba's artist. □



Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok

takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available. Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below

on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora'



as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately

there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!

Photo credits: Aruba Conservation Foundation



Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

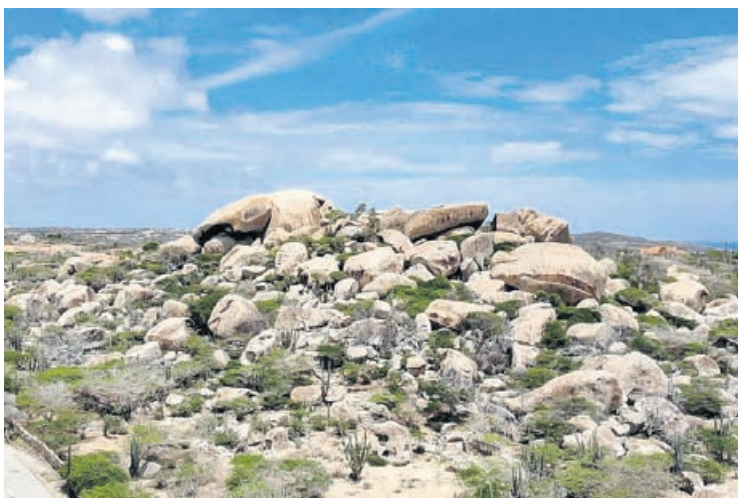
With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some



of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

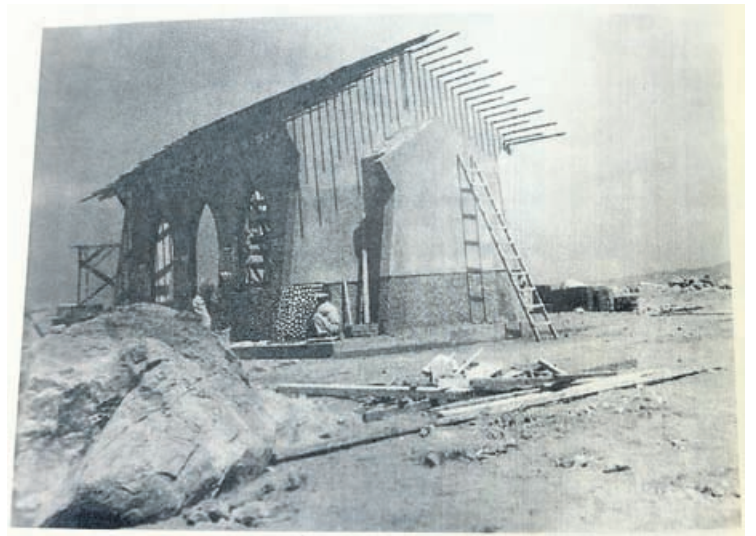
If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi



If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell

you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time,

as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Couches
- 6 Shocked sounds
- 11 Visitor from afar
- 12 Push out
- 13 — cotta
- 14 "Keen!"
- 15 Fairy tale monster
- 17 Original
- 18 Prejudice based on social status
- 22 Damage
- 23 Truck fuel
- 27 Wiped out, in skiing slang
- 29 Burner setting
- 30 Common events in whodunits
- 32 Church reply
- 33 Unmindful
- 35 Tree fluid
- 38 Poet Sandburg
- 39 City square
- 41 Usher's place
- 45 Say
- 46 Less cordial
- 47 Rx amounts
- 48 Con-sumerist Ralph

DOWN

- 1 Plopped down
- 2 Bullring cheer
- 3 Fragrant tree
- 4 "Dream On" band
- 5 Un-foreseen problems
- 6 "Invisible Touch" band
- 7 Log chopper
- 8 Reach across
- 9 Comedian Davidson
- 10 Poky
- 16 Relieve (of)
- 18 Libya neighbor
- 19 Tardy
- 20 Open space
- 21 "Enter Sandman" band
- 24 One or more
- 25 Preceding nights
- 26 Eye part
- 28 "Drive" band
- 31 Mariner's place
- 34 Shower feature
- 35 Tater
- 36 Choir voice
- 37 Touches lightly
- 40 Last letter
- 42 Comic Caesar
- 43 Director Spike
- 44 Go astray

S	A	L	A	D		P	E	R	I	L
E	R	O	D	E		E	L	E	N	A
A	L	O	O	F		G	L	A	D	S
G	E	T	S	E	T		D	O	E	
O	N	E		A	U	D	I	T	O	R
D	E	R		T	R	E	V	O	R	
			F	I	E	F	S			
	K	E	R	N	E	L		E	S	P
L	A	S	A	G	N	A		R	E	O
I	M	P			S	T	A	R	T	S
K	A	R	A	T		I	R	A	T	E
E	L	I	T	E		N	I	N	E	R
D	A	T	E	D		G	A	T	E	S

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
			15		16			17		
18	19	20					21			
22					23		24	25	26	
27				28		29				
30				31		32				
			33			34				
35	36	37		38						
39			40			41	42	43	44	
45						46				
47						48				

2-5

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-5

CRYPTOQUOTE

W S N F B X V L S W M Z S E V O K A

Z F N Y S L N V B A Q S V G X W W B M

N Y O N K Y R J Y F B X N V X W F

W B D S . — V X I R

Cryptoquote: THERE ARE ONLY TWO SEASONS — WINTER AND BASEBALL. — BILL VEECK

Cruise ship Schedule: February 01 - 08 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	AIDAPERLA CARNIVAL MIRACLE EXPLORER OF THE SEAS STAR PRIDE	09.00 08.00 16.30 06.00	22.00 22.00 **** 16.00	B C I G	1 1 1 1
SUN	02	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept.	****	18.00	I	-
MON	03	OCEANIA SIRENA RESILIENT LADY	07.00 09.00	18.00 23.00	B C	1 1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE CARNIVAL HORIZON NORWEGIAN VIVA	08.00 09.00 13.00	18.00 23.00 21.00	B C I	1 1 1
WED	05	AIDABELLA CELEBRITY REFLECTION SEABOURN OVATION	10.00 10.30 07.00	22.00 21.00 19.00	B C I	1 1 1
THU	06	ROTTERDAM AIDAMAR	08.00 10.00	23.00 20.00	B C	1 1
FRI	07	MARELLA EXPLORER 2 EMERALD PRINCESS	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
SAT	08	NORWEGIAN JEWEL CORAL PRINCESS	07.00 09.00	20.00 18.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

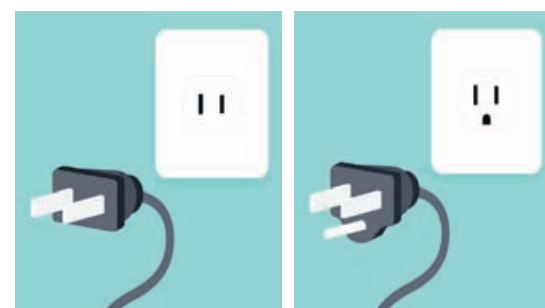
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Classifieds

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One Bedroom sleep 4
Date :8 February to 15 February
2025
Price :\$1,800
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Rudolf Arendstraat Oranjestad
5 min drive to Down Town
10 min drive to the beach
6 apartments all studio with pool
Price: 1,4 Million
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

For rent

Barcelo resort
3 BR 3 Bath sleep 12
Date : 8 February to 22 February
2025
All inclusive
Price :\$3,600 each week
Call:011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
2 BR 2 Bath week # 3 room
2317 / 2318
21 weeks remaining on the
contract
Price \$13,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf

Eagle Beach
Studio WK # 4 room # 2129
Contract expire :12/31/2045
Price :\$8000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

218887

Divi Village

Eagle beach
Studio wk # 5 room # 8105
Building D 1 st floor
Contract expire : 01/22/2037
Price :\$8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village Golf

Eagle beach
One bedroom week # 9
Room # 2118 birdie 3
23 weeks remaining
Price :\$9000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo Resorts

Palm beach
2 x 1 BR Floating weeks
Platinum level All inclusive
Price :\$10,000 each
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo Resort

Palm beach
Jr , suites week #2,3,4
All inclusive
Price :\$9000 each week
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo resort

Palm beach
3 BR for rent week 6 and 7
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All inclusive
Price :\$ 3,600 each both weeks
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Barcelo resort

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All inclusive
Price: \$15,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Quita beach resort

Eagle beach
Two Bedroom week #12
Room # 2002 /2012
Phase 2
Price :\$10,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott surf club

Palm beach
Two bedroom 2 bath
Ocean side
Platinum season
Price :\$25,000
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Casa Del Mar

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1409
Price :\$20,000
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Marriott Surf Club

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Gold season
2 BR 2 Bath Garden view
Price :\$10,000
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Condo for sale

Blue
2 BR 2 Bath
Ground floor
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Investment opportunity

Eagle beach near Gloria
Commercial building
2630 m2 lease land (53,820
sqf) 6 ground floor 6 first floor
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Investment opportunity

Property land 11,667 m2
At San Fuego near the national
park
Price :\$48,00 per m2
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HTTA

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Eagle Resort

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4 th floor pool / ocean view
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Call : 011-297-630-1307
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Marriott Surf Club

Palm beach
Gold season
2 BR 2 bath Ocean side
Price :\$ 15,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott destination points

For sale @\$5,00 a points
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
website:httarubastates.com

For Sale

Property land at sero colorado
Baby beach view
1875m2 at \$250 per m2
Price :\$ 468,750
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Blue Condo

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2 BR 2 Bath
Ground floor
Price :\$799K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

Noord
3 Bedroom 1 bath
600 m2 lease land
Price :\$350,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

St. Cruz: Tel.585 8028

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto:Tel.584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

U.S. Postal Service flip-flops on Hong Kong-China packages, lifting a ban imposed a day earlier

By ZEN SOO

AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — The U.S. Postal Service is reversing course a day after placing a ban on all inbound packages from China and Hong Kong.

The post office had announced Tuesday that it would no longer accept parcels from the China and Hong Kong after the U.S. imposed an additional 10% tariff on Chinese goods and ended a customs exception that allowed small value parcels to enter the U.S. without paying tax.

The Postal Service reversed course Wednesday but gave no reason. It said it would work with Customs and Border Protection to implement a collection process for the new China tariffs to avoid delivery disruptions.

The post office pointed to the short prepared statement on the reversal when asked for more details about the reversal Wednesday by The Associated Press.

The ban had the potential



A U.S. Postal Service employee loads parcels outside a post office in Wheeling, Ill., on Jan. 29, 2024.

to create massive disruptions for online shopping platforms like Shein and Temu, popular with younger shoppers in the U.S. for cheap clothing and other products, usually shipped directly from China.

Cheap, direct postal ser-

vice helps these companies keep costs low, as did the "de minimis" exemption that previously allowed shipments to go tax-free if their value is under \$800.

The suspension by USPS would have likely have created delays in shipments

and potentially higher prices for the companies that rely on rock-bottom pricing for huge sales.

What exactly did the USPS announce?

One day after the U.S. Postal Service said in a notice that it would stop ac-

cepting inbound parcels from the China and Hong Kong Posts until further notice, it said Wednesday that would "continue accepting all international inbound mail and packages from China and Hong Kong."

Letters and flats mail that measures up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) long or 3/4 inches (1.9 centimeters) thick were not included in the brief ban.

Why did it happen?

The USPS did not give a reason for the ban Tuesday, but the suspension came after Trump closed the "de minimis" customs exemption this week for China that allowed shoppers and importers to avoid duties on packages worth below \$800.

The exemption was removed as part of an executive order to levy a 10% tariff on Chinese goods.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection previously stated that it processes an average of over 4 million "de minimis" imports each week. □

Associated Press

Apple lashes out at iPhone porn app maker and the EU rules allowing its download

By KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Apple has chided a newly introduced pornography app

available in the European Union, warning that the bloc's digital rules opening the way for third-party app store downloads un-

dermines consumer confidence in the tech giant. AltStore PAL, an alternative app marketplace made possible under Europe's Digital Markets Act or DMA, this week unveiled the Hot Tub iPhone app, described as an adult content browser.

The digital rulebook forces Big Tech companies to open their services up to more competition, including allowing phone users to download from alternative app stores instead of being limited to the official app stores from Apple and Google, for example.

AltStore PAL said in a social media post on Monday that Hot Tub is "the world's 1st Apple-approved porn app."

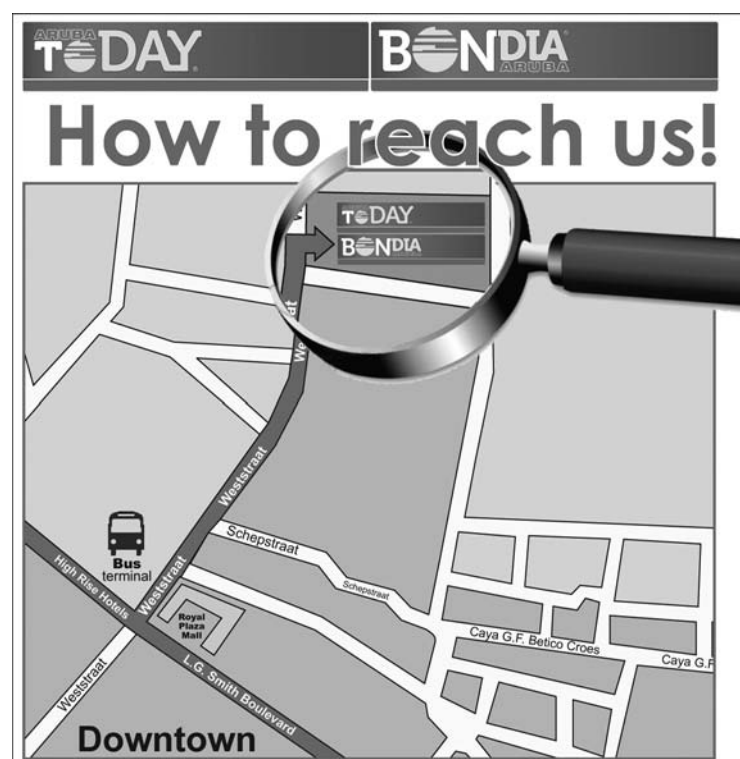
Apple rejected that description, saying the availability of such an app would "undermine con-

sumer trust and confidence" in its mobile ecosystem.

"Contrary to the false statements made by the marketplace developer, we certainly do not approve of this app and would never offer it in our App Store," the company

said in a statement.

"The truth is that we are required by the European Commission to allow it to be distributed by marketplace operators like AltStore and Epic who may not share our concerns for user safety." □



This is a display of iPhone 16s in an Apple Store in Pittsburgh on Jan. 12, 2025.

Associated Press

Mahomes, Kelce and the Chiefs' quest for a three-peat faces its toughest challenge vs. the Eagles

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and the Kansas City Chiefs are pursuing history and a few of Taylor Swift's records. Saquon Barkley, Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles stand in their way.

The Chiefs (17-2) will try to become the first team to win three straight Super Bowls when they face the Eagles (17-3) on Sunday in the Superdome.

It's a rematch from two years ago when Hurts nearly led the Eagles to a championship only to watch Mahomes snatch it away by rallying Kansas City to a 38-35 win on Harrison Butker's 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left.

Mahomes lifted the Chiefs to an overtime win against San Francisco in another Super Bowl rematch last year. Now, they're poised for a three-peat, a word coach Andy Reid doesn't use much.

"I think the only time I've heard him say it is to the media whenever y'all ask him about it," Mahomes said. "He's very locked in on just, 'How can we be great with our cadence today at practice?' so that's just the stuff that Coach Reid focuses on."

Reid won more games than any coach in fran-



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts (1) and Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) pose with the trophy during Super Bowl 59 Opening Night, Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, in New Orleans, ahead of the NFL football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday.

chise history during his 14 seasons in Philadelphia but couldn't win the big one, going 1-4 in NFC championship games and losing a Super Bowl to the Patriots. He went right to Kansas City after the Eagles fired him following the 2012 season and has built a dynasty thanks to Mahomes, Kelce, Chris Jones and others.

"You don't have time to think about all that," Reid said of the three-peat. "You're focused in on the job at hand here and that's playing against a great Ea-

gles team."

Jones, the three-time All-Pro defensive tackle, echoed his coach's viewpoint.

"We don't talk about no three-peat," Jones said. "I think that's what we're here for. We understand that. We understand there's one more game until the offseason and we can do whatever we want to do. Our main focus is making sure we're prepared for the Eagles."

No matter what the Chiefs say, everyone else is talking about it. No team has

done it in the Super Bowl era, though the Green Bay Packers won an NFL championship in 1965 and followed by winning the first two Super Bowls. Kelce even started all the three-peat talk on stage last year when he said the team's goal was to win three.

"This is gonna be our biggest test yet," Kelce said. "They got a lot of great players but the biggest thing is they play great together. You could see their communication. You could see the accountability they

have, especially in the secondary. It's not gonna make my job any easier."

These Eagles are different from the group that fell just short against Kansas City in Arizona two years ago.

They have the NFL's most dynamic player in the backfield. Barkley rushed for 2,447 yards with seven touchdowns of 60-plus yards in the regular season and playoffs.

"The goal has always been to win it, not just to get here," Barkley said.

Losing to the Chiefs two years ago only motivated Hurts even more. He's determined to hoist a Lombardi trophy and even had a photo of him walking off the field with Kansas City's red and yellow confetti falling around him as the background on his phone.

"It's had a great driving force," Hurts said of that loss. "It lit a flame, lit a fire in me, and to have this opportunity again is exactly what you work for."

Hurts, Barkley, A.J. Brown, DeVonta Smith and a dominant offensive line present a major challenge for Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

The Eagles also have the league's No. 1-ranked defense, featuring eight new starters from 2022 and defensive coordinator Vic Fangio. □

Associated Press

U.S. national anthem booed before NBA, NHL games in Canada despite tariff pause

TORONTO (AP) — Fans booed the American national anthem before NHL and NBA games in Canada on Tuesday night, a sign that some Canadians were still upset despite President Donald Trump's 30-day pause on tariff threats against Mexico and Canada.

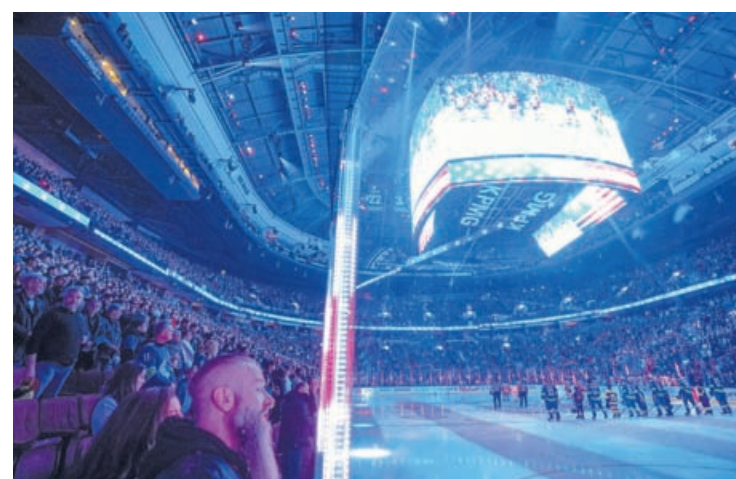
Boos echoed through Rogers Arena in Vancouver as singer Elizabeth Irving launched into the opening notes of "The Star-Spangled Banner" before the NHL's Canucks hosted the Colorado Avalanche. Fans cheered as she finished the song and the applause grew louder as Irving began "O Canada."

It was one of three arenas where the U.S. national anthem was jeered. A few fans booed before the NBA's Toronto Raptors hosted the New York Knicks.

The boos were neither as loud nor as prolonged as they were before Sunday's game against the Los Angeles Clippers. However, as they did Sunday, Raptors fans cheered loudly for the singing of "O Canada," showing special enthusiasm for the line "True North strong and free!"

In Winnipeg, where the NHL's Jets hosted the Carolina Hurricanes, the boos weren't very loud or overly enthusiastic. However, they grew louder near the end of the anthem.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was also booed over the weekend at NHL games in Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver, shortly after Trump made his threat of import tariffs on America's northern neighbor a reality. □



Fans boo as the United States national anthem is sung before the Vancouver Canucks and Detroit Red Wings play an NHL hockey game in Vancouver, British Columbia, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.

Associated Press

LIV Golf players now have their own path to U.S. Open exemption

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

The U.S. Open became the first major to publish a direct pathway for LIV Golf players, on Wednesday announcing a new exemption category that awards one spot to the leading player from among the top three at LIV's halfway point this year.

The next exemption category will include one spot this year from the May 19 standings in LIV. Starting with the 2026 U.S. Open, the USGA will take the leading player in the final 2025 individual standings, along with the leading player from the May 18, 2026, list.

In each case, the exemption goes to the leading player not already exempt, and the player must be among the top three in the standings. The other majors have not turned away players from



Bryson DeChambeau celebrates with fans and the trophy after winning the U.S. Open golf tournament Sunday, June 16, 2024, in Pinehurst, N.C.

Associated Press

the Saudi-backed LIV Golf League. The Masters has invited Joaquin Niemann each

of the last two years, though Augusta National based that on his international play.

The PGA Championship has invited LIV players based on their world ranking, and for

2024 at Valhalla it invited Tator Gooch, who had won three times on LIV the previous year. But the PGA of America does not have specific criteria, lumping LIV players and others into "special invitations." Niemann and Sergio Garcia already have received PGA invitations this year.

For this year's U.S. Open, an exemption from qualifying will be given "the top player who is not otherwise exempt and in the top three" of the LIV individual standings as of May 19.

That could mean no one gets that exemption if the leading three are already eligible. Bryson DeChambeau, Jon Rahm, Brooks Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Richard Bland, Phil Mickelson and Cameron Smith are LIV players currently exempt.

"We're pleased that the USGA has formally created a new exemption for LIV Golf players to compete in the U.S. Open and appreciate Mike Whan's leadership and commitment to growing the game of golf," said Scott O'Neil, the new CEO of LIV Golf. "Every golf fan in the world longs to see the greatest players in the world competing on golf's biggest stages at the majors," O'Neil said. "LIV Golf is committed to working hand in hand with golf's governing bodies to elevate the sport in all corners of the world."

The U.S. Open is June 12-15 at Oakmont Country Club in the Pittsburgh suburbs.

"The USGA continues to evaluate the pathways that exist to ensure those playing their best have the opportunity to compete in our national championship," said John Bodenhamer, the USGA chief championships officer.

"Consistent with our historical approach, we continuously evaluate talent levels on professional tours and in amateur events, which has led us to add a new exemption category."

In addition to the new category, the USGA will offer exemptions from the first stage of 18-hole qualifying starting next year to the top 10 players on the LIV points list on April 7, 2026. Five LIV events will have been played by then. □



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